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TO : Ch/G

FROM : Acting Chief, D/GG

SUBJECT: Brief of Division History

DATE: 26 July 1954

Transmitted herewith are two copies of the brief of the
Division's history from November 1950 to the present.

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I. Chronology

A. November 1950 - December 1951

1. The work during this period was almost entirely concentrated on the production of the NIS Chapters IX, the MR, boundary studies, reports on mapping institutions, and research which lead to the construction of maps. Most of the work was done at the request of the Department of State and AMS, or was self-initiated.

2. In mid-1951 we began to receive our first requests from DD/P, then OPC. OSI also made its first requests on us at about the same time.

3. Toward the end of 1951 the Division entered into a new phase of work which has continued under varying forms to this day. That was the "C" area evasion geography program. To date 34 of the "C" area studies have been produced and there is every indication that there will be a constant demand for more of them and revisions of old ones with the inclusion of greater detail.

B. 1952

1. At the beginning of this period still another form of evasion geography was started. These were the "B" area studies and they have become part of the standard program for the Division. To date 5 have been produced and there are enough on schedule to keep us busy (at the rate of 4 a year) through 1957.

2. At this same time there was a marked decrease in the number of jobs of research which lead to the compilation of maps. All self-initiated work of this sort disappeared and at present the only examples of this type of research are done solely on request from outside.

3. By mid-1952 another new type of research was initiated. These were the border (as contrasted to boundary) studies on the border zones of the USSR. Since their inception 8 have been completed and 2 more are being worked on at present.

4. Also by mid-1952 the requests from DD/P had become so great that a little more than 50% of our research was done for that area. This same figure or a slightly higher one has been maintained up until now.

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5. In late 1952 the Staff on Soviet Mapping was established. Although there was no indication of its production until the following period, it has been producing reports on Soviet geodesy and photogrammetry at an even pace.

C. 1953

1. Near the beginning of this report period the Division began to produce an even greater number of detailed regional analyses on the USSR, Far East, and Satellites. It was at this time that the work load in the Far East Branch began to increase so rapidly.

2. Late in 1953 we entered into the NIS Section 19 program. One Section 19, that on Iran, was produced in 1953 and 8 are scheduled to be produced in 1954 with another 8 to follow each succeeding year.

D. 1954

1. Early in 1954 the Division began to produce a different kind of evasion geography - one emphasizing escape routes out of a given area. These were done specifically for ONI.

2. A little later in the reporting period the U.S. Army indicated that it would like to have its requirements met in the evasion geography program. Their requirements will be incorporated into our present "C" area outline and in the near future a slightly different type "C" area study will appear. The Army has indicated interest in having more detail in the "C" area study and would like to have us revise many of the earlier studies which we published. If the Army's request is to be given serious consideration we will have a "C" area program extending through the next 3 or 4 years. The Army came to us for this work when they finally realized they did not have the capacity or the capability of producing such studies for themselves.

3. In June 1954 the Division entered into a new type of production - that of preparing short statements on the terrain and climate of selected countries to be covered by the OCI country handbooks. The production rate is 2 a week and will continue as far as can be determined at the present into February or March 1955.

4. In contrast to A, 1 our present program may be summarized as the continued production of NIS Chapters IX, the MR, "B" and "C" area evasion geographies, in addition to 2 or 3 other types of evasion studies, detailed regional analyses

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on the Soviet Bloc, and other miscellaneous studies. During 1954 none of the work has been self-initiated although some continuing projects which are to be considered research aids rather than reports have been initiated within the Division.

II. Personnel Change

Since November 1950 there has been a gradual increase in personnel from around 30 to a present 49. The full TO figure of 53 has never been attained because of the normal amount of attrition and the desire on the part of the Division to hire only highly qualified personnel.

III. Foreign Travel

By implementing the OLI/M procurement program, by filling JIB(L) overseas slots, by private foreign travel, and by special trips the scenic peregrinations of division personnel have greatly increased, and the value of the travel personnel enhanced. By the end of 1954 there will have been at least 12 members of the Division who have benefited from overseas travel. This contrasts greatly with previous years when the number have been none, one or two.

IV. Miscellaneous

Other rubrics suggested for inclusion (such as the OSU project) are too well known to detail here or do not apply in this historical analysis. I assume that the record of expenditures is kept in the Area office or Administrative Staff.

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